

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
List of Figures	ii
Lists of Tables and Maps	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Introduction	1
The Battle of Monroe’s Crossroads Staff Ride: An Exercise in Leadership Training	1
Setting the Stage	1
Small Arms at Monroe’s Crossroads	2
Field Artillery	4
Tactics	6
The Battle Staff Ride Exercise	7
The Tenets of Army Operations	8
The Dynamics of Combat Power	8
The Principles of War	8
Staff Ride Purpose and Objectives	9
The Battle	19
Situation	19
Mission	20
Execution	23
Confederate Reconnaissance	45
Dawn Attack	51
The Swamp Stops the Federal Rout	57
Kilpatrick’s Scouts Arrive	61
Lieutenant Stetson Reaches His Guns	63
Confederates Counterattack	65
The Confederates Retire	68
Bibliographic Essay	77
Appendix A: Union Order of Battle	81
Appendix B: Confederate Order of Battle	82
Appendix C: Biographies of Union Commanders	84
Appendix D: Biographies of Confederate Commanders	88
End Notes	96

List of Figures

Figures

1. <i>Tracking the Federals</i>	13
2. <i>Waiting for Dawn</i>	14
3. <i>“Where is General Kilpatrick?”</i>	15
4. <i>“Cavalry!”</i>	16
5. <i>Holding the Line</i>	17
6. <i>Firing Canister</i>	18
7. General William T. Sherman, U.S.A.	19
8. <i>Lieutenant General Joseph Wheeler, C.S.A</i>	20
9. Brevet Major General Hugh J. Kilpatrick, U.S.A.	26
10. <i>Lieutenant General Wade Hampton, C.S.A</i>	30
11. Federal Cavalryman	38
12. <i>Major General Matthew C. Butler, C.S.A.</i>	40
13. Confederate Cavalryman	47
14. <i>Brigadier General Thomas Harrison, C.S.A.</i>	48
15. <i>Brigadier General William Y. C. Humes, C.S.A</i>	50
16. <i>Brigadier General George G. Dibrell, C.S.A.</i>	53
17. <i>Brigadier General Robert H. Anderson, C.S.A.</i>	55
18. Double barrel shotgun	57
19. Spencer Carbine	59
20. Federal soldier	61
21. 3–Inch Ordnance Rifle	63
22. Federal Cavalryman	67
23. Confederate Cavalry	68
24. Sharps Carbine	70
25. Pennsylvania Cavalrymen	71
26. Brevet Major General Hugh J. Kilpatrick and his staff	72
27. <i>Lieutenant General Joseph E. Johnston, C.S.A.</i>	74
28. <i>Lieutenant General William J. Hardee, C.S.A.</i>	74
29. <i>Brigadier General Evander M. Law, C.S.A.</i>	74
30. Brevet Brigadier General Thomas J. Jordan, U.S.A..	75
31. Troopers from the Fifth Ohio Cavalry Regiment	75
32. Georgia Cavalry in camp	75
33. <i>Captain A.M. Shannon, C.S.A.</i>	76
34. <i>First Lieutenant James A. Nichol, C.S.A.</i>	76

Lists of Tables & Maps

Tables

1. Archeological Evidence of Firearms Types at Monroe’s Crossroads	3
2. Federal Weapons at Monroe’s Crossroads	4
3. Confederate Weapons at Monroe’s Crossroads	5
4. Weapons Capabilities	6
5. Weather and Light Conditions for Early March	22

Maps

1. Troop movements 2–5 March 1865	24
2. Troop movements 6–7 March 1865	28
3. Troop movements 8 March 1865	29
4. Troop movements morning of 9 March 1865	32
5. Troop movements about 1400 hours 9 March 1865	34
6. Troop movements about 1700 hours 9 March 1865	36
7. Troop movements about 2100 hours 9 March 1865	37
8. Troop movements about 2300 hours 9 March 1865	43
9. Troop movements about 0100 hours 10 March 1865	44
10. Confederate reconnaissance	46
11. <i>Humes</i> ’ proposed attack position	49
12. Dawn attack	52
13. Federal rout is stopped by the swamp	58
14. Kilpatrick’s scouts arrive	62
15. Lieutenant Stetson reaches his guns and fires	64
16. Confederates reattack	66
17. Confederates retire	69

Acknowledgements

William H. Kern of Fort Bragg, North Carolina developed the proposal for the Monroe's Crossroads staff ride and secured funding through the Legacy Resource Management Program. John H. Jameson, Jr., of the Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service, Tallahassee, Florida provided us the opportunity to develop this document. Linda Zumpe and Joyce Hawthorne of the Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska, provided administrative support and managed to iron out several wrinkles to keep us going. Judy Hewett of Southern Pines, North Carolina drew the situation maps. Martin Pate of Newnan, Georgia executed the oil paintings of the battle. Sharyn Kane and Richard Keeton of Marietta, Georgia edited and designed the staff ride.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Wilbur S. Nye (Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired) whose early research into the battle provided a foundation for our work. Stanley M. Dahl (First Sergeant, U.S. Army, Retired) and James Legg collected and preserved relics from the battlefield. They generously shared their research. In addition to various well-known accounts, we searched for long neglected historical sources and integrated them into the narrative. We tried to dispel the myths and apocryphal stories which have grown up about the battle by putting the events described in the appropriate historical context. Finally, we endeavored to take a fresh look at the Battle of Monroe's Crossroads with a view toward training American soldiers in the art of war.

[Go back to Table of Contents](#)

[Go to next page](#)